

Abstract

A method for reversing the direction of rotation of a two-stroke engine whose rotational speed and crank mechanism position are sensed by a sensor system. To reverse the direction of rotation of the engine, the ignition and/or the fuel supply is first switched off, and upon a subsequent coasting of the engine, a targeted early ignition is set when a specific limiting rotational speed is undershot and after, if appropriate, the fuel supply has been resumed. Early ignition reverses the direction of rotation of the engine, and the fuel supply and ignition are subsequently controlled in accordance with the reversed direction of rotation. A single sensor interacts with an incremental transducer having a specific number of transducer segments distributed uniformly over a circumference to determine the instantaneous angular speed of the crank mechanism and the crank mechanism position.